

TAKE YOUR TALENT TO THE TOP



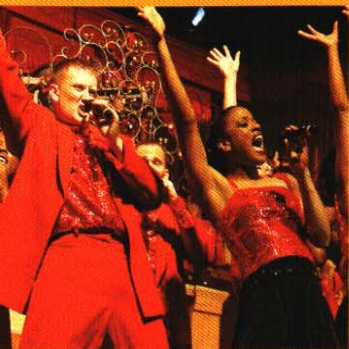


IF YOU'VE EVER DREAMED ABOUT BEING ON STAGE. . .



Is entertainment in your blood? Do you really love to put on a show at karaoke each week? Do you hear a song on the radio and suddenly break into a dance routine? Perhaps you've envisioned yourself playing on stage in a band. Possibly you've had the desire to test your technical skills or theatrical creativity. Or maybe you've watched a full-scale production on stage or on television and said to yourself, "Man, I'd love to be a part of something like that!" If so, you have a golden opportunity to put that dream into motion by becoming a part of the Air Force's elite entertainment showcase, TOPS IN BLUE.

It all began as a Worldwide Air Force Talent Contest, recognizing talented airmen in categories ranging from comedy to music. However, once the producers saw the assembled talent, they recognized the potential for something even bigger. They decided to organize the very best performers into a traveling troupe to entertain Air Force families throughout the world—resulting in the phrase, "family entertaining family." Known as TOPS IN BLUE, the troupe was more than a success. That first year they presented 230 performances in 235 days!





INTRODUCING TOPS IN BLUE – THE AIR FORCE’S EXPEDITIONARY ENTERTAINERS

Since its inception in 1953, TOPS IN BLUE has been providing outstanding professional quality entertainment for our fellow Air Force men and women around the world. Created with the idea of “family entertaining family,” the program gives talented Air Force members a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their skills and talents while fulfilling a very vital mission — enhancing the mental readiness of our military personnel while promoting the Air Force.

Members of TOPS IN BLUE, travel virtually around the globe as world-class entertainers and distinguished Air Force Ambassadors performing at some of the most exciting, challenging, and unique locations imaginable.



BE PART OF A WORTHWHILE COMMITMENT



Because of the scope of its mission, being part of TOPS IN BLUE does require a great deal of commitment. As one of the Air Force's Expeditionary Entertainers, you'll travel more than 150,000 miles, perform over 125 shows and entertain more than 500,000 people. It's a non-stop whirlwind tour that reaches our troops wherever they are stationed — from the deserts of the Middle East and Asia, to the

snow-covered mountaintops of South Korea and Greenland, and everywhere in between.

TOPS IN BLUE is truly a learning experience that will not only teach you about entertainment but a lot about yourself as well.



WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF YOU

Before you ever hit the road there is an intense 45-day staging period in San Antonio, Texas at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Home of TOPS IN BLUE." During staging, you'll not only master the instrumental, vocal, choreographic and technical aspects of the show, but you will also hone the skills needed to mold your troupe into a completely self-contained operational unit.

Within this unit there are many facets that must come together to make for a successful tour and you'll be required to contribute more than just your own stage performance. Each member of the team will handle logistical responsibilities such as ground transportation, airlift support, dining, or lodging. In addition, the team is responsible for the

loading, unloading, set-up and strike of over 36,000 pounds of staging, lighting, audio and special effects equipment for each show.

In short, as part of TOPS IN BLUE, you'll work hard and learn "commitment" first hand as many premier performers have before you. But the hard work is not without reward. You'll experience a tremendous measure of satisfaction; not just from completing the tour or being part of one of the finest and most professional shows ever to hit the stage, but the unparalleled satisfaction that comes from touching the lives and uplifting the spirits of so many people along the way. That's what makes it all worthwhile; it's entertainment at its best!



THERE'S A PLACE FOR EVERY TALENT IN TOPS IN BLUE

TOPS IN BLUE is open to all Air Force active-duty military members and the team is composed of a variety of individuals, each with their own unique talents. Those talents include, but are not limited to:

- **ENTERTAINERS**
Vocalists, dancers, instrumentalists, comedians, dramatists, and variety acts
- **TECHNICIANS**
Lighting, staging, audio, video, special effects
- **VEHICLE OPERATORS**
Drivers for the **TOPS IN BLUE** bus, tractor trailers and other vehicles
- **STAFF PERSONNEL**
Administrative, logistical, and other support personnel



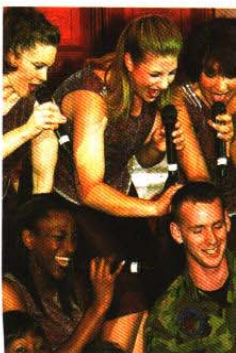
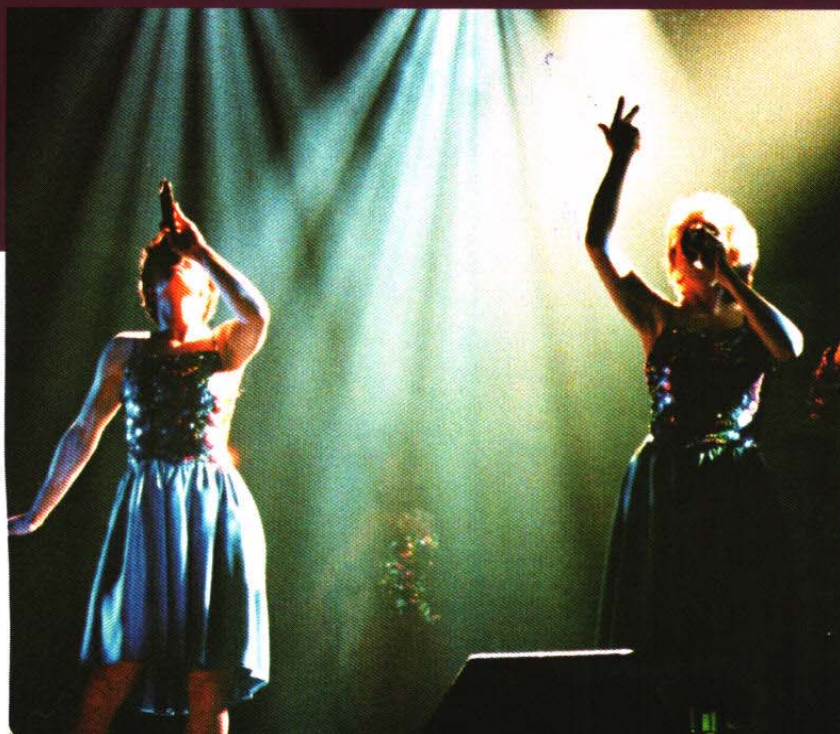
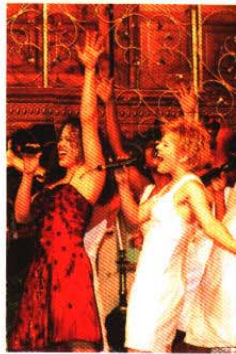
If you are selected for **TOPS IN BLUE**, you'll be placed on permissive TDY status for the duration of the 11-month tour retaining both your regular pay and career field job series. In addition, you will also receive a daily "personal expense allowance" to help cover personal incidentals on the road and be assigned Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS) if not already eligible.



Show costumes, touring uniforms and other off-stage wardrobe items are provided. Keep in mind that just as in your day-to-day Air Force job, as a member of **TOPS IN BLUE** you will be required to adhere to AFI 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance and Body Fat Management Program, in terms of appearance and weight standards as well as military bearing. As Ambassadors of the Air Force you'll be expected to set the example.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR TALENT TO THE TOP?

Each year, Air Force Entertainment selects a new TOPS IN BLUE cast. The process begins with the consideration of applicants from bases around the world. From those applicants approximately 80 to 100 of the best candidates are invited to compete at the Air Force Worldwide Talent Contest, which is held annually at the "Home of TOPS IN BLUE," Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. If you are selected as one of those contestants, you will be judged in a series of auditions, interviews and other evaluations during the Worldwide Talent Contest. In addition, if you are an entertainer, you will have the opportunity to display your talent on-stage in front of a live audience. At the conclusion of the contest, total scores from your auditions, interviews, evaluations, and on-stage performance will be tabulated. If you are among the elite, you will have realized your dream of being selected for TOPS IN BLUE.



TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE CONTEST, SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO AIR FORCE ENTERTAINMENT:

- **Entertainers — Entertainer Resume/Application**

This resume/application provides basic contact information and personal data about you as well as specifics regarding your talent(s).

- **Entertainers — Performance Video**

As an entertainer, you must submit a 4-5 minute video that demonstrates your particular talent. While professional-quality videos are not required, keep in mind the better the quality of the video, the more accurately it will display your talent.

- **Technicians and other positions — Technical/Driver/Staff Application**

For technicians and other staff positions, this form provides basic contact information and personal data in addition to details regarding your skills.

- **Letter of Commitment**

This letter expresses your desire to attend the Worldwide Talent Contest and be considered for TOPS IN BLUE and states that you have no personal commitments that would preclude your attendance or selection for TOPS IN BLUE.

- **Letter of Intent**

This letter, signed by your commander, gives consent for you to be placed on a 10-day permissive TDY to attend the Worldwide Talent Contest if selected. It is important that you discuss this opportunity with your commander.

All required forms and complete submission instructions may be obtained through your base Community Activities Center or online from the TOPS IN BLUE website located at www.airforcetopsinblue.com

AFTER YOUR TOUR IS OVER

You'll find that touring with TOPS IN BLUE is a life-changing event that will provide you with an incredible sense of purpose, strength and professionalism in all you do long after your tour. What's more, you'll be "inducted" into a very distinguished group known simply as "Priors" — carrying with it the responsibility to further the program, help aspiring talent, become involved in your community and offer a helping hand to both the program or any other Prior.



**BECOME ONE OF THE ELITE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. AIR FORCE'S
EXPEDITIONARY ENTERTAINERS**



Share your talents and reach your potential. Be a part of a rich Air Force tradition — “Family Entertaining Family” — with 50 years of honor and excellence. And count yourself among America’s goodwill ambassadors.

For more information or to apply for TOPS IN BLUE, visit our website at www.airforcetopsinblue.com today or contact:

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HQ Air Force Services Agency
10100 Reunion Place, Suite 403
San Antonio, Texas 78216

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